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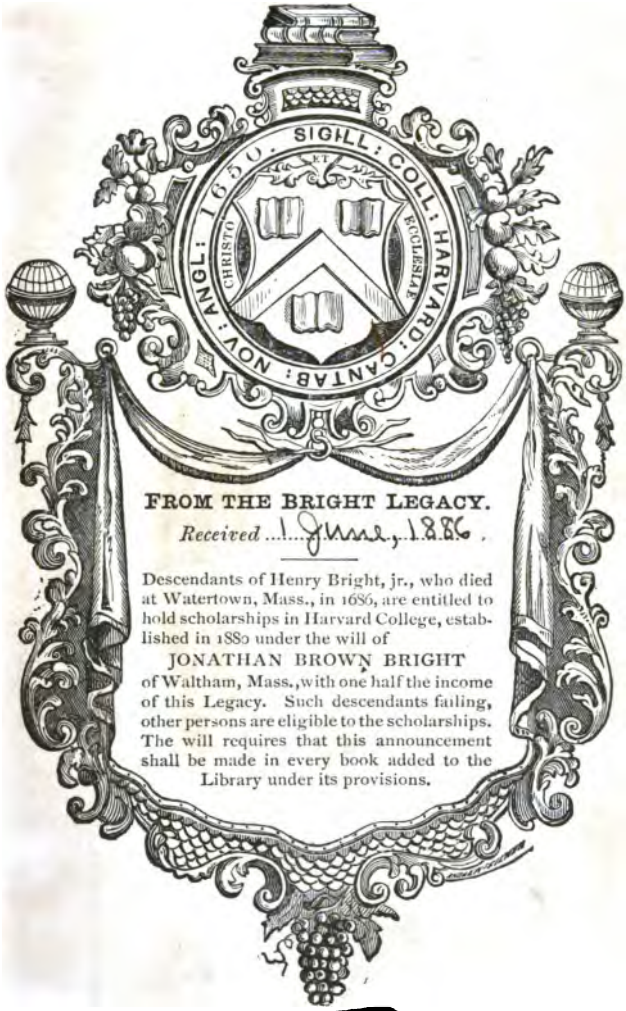

FROM THE BRIGHT LEGACY.

Received 1 June, 1886.

Descendants of Henry Bright, jr., who died at Watertown, Mass., in 1686, are entitled to hold scholarships in Harvard College, established in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Mass., with one half the income of this Legacy. Such descendants failing, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.

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ECONOMIC TRACTS. No. XII.

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THE WORK OF A SOCIAL TEACHER

BEING A MEMORIAL OF

RICHARD L. DUGDALE

BY

EDWARD M. SHEPARD

NEW YORK
THE SOCIETY FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION
4 MORTON STREET
1884

The Society for Political Education.

(*ORGANIZED* 1880.)

OBJECTS.—The SOCIETY was organized by citizens who believe that the success of our government depends on the active political influence of educated intelligence, and that parties are means, not ends. It is entirely non-partisan in its organization, and is not to be used for any other purpose than the awakening of an intelligent interest in government methods and purposes, tending to restrain the abuse of parties and to promote party morality.

Among its organizers are numbered Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, who differ among themselves as to which party is best fitted to conduct the government; but who are in the main agreed as to the following propositions:

The right of each citizen to his free voice and vote must be upheld.

Office-holders must not control the suffrage.

The office should seek the man, and not the man the office.

Public service, in business positions, should depend solely on fitness and good behavior.

The crimes of bribery and corruption must be relentlessly punished.

Local issues should be independent of national parties.

Coins made unlimited legal tender must possess their face value as metal in the markets of the world.

Sound currency must have a metal basis, and all paper-money must be convertible on demand.

Labor has a right to the highest wages it can earn, unhindered by public or private tyranny.

Trade has a right to the freest scope, unfettered by taxes, except for government expenses.

Corporations must be restricted from abuse of privilege.

Neither the public money nor the people's land must be used to subsidize private enterprise.

A public opinion, wholesome and active, unhampered by machine control, is the true safeguard of popular institutions.

Persons who become members of the Society are not, however, required to endorse the above.

METHODS.—The Society proposes to carry out its objects by submitting from time to time to its members lists of books which it regards as desirable reading on current political and economic questions; by selecting annual courses of reading for its members; by supplying the books so selected at the smallest possible advance beyond actual cost; by furnishing and circulating at a low price, and in cheap form, sound economic and political literature in maintenance and illustration of the principles above announced as constituting the basis of its organization; and by assisting in the formation of reading and corresponding circles and clubs for discussing social, political, and economic questions.

ORGANIZATION.—The Society is managed by a General Committee, selected from different sections of the United States. The correspondence of the Society is divided among five Secretaries, one each for the East, the Northwest, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the Pacific Slope.

It is suggested that branch organizations be formed wherever it is possible (and especially in colleges) to carry out the intentions of the Society. Any person who will form a Club of ten persons, each of whom shall be an active member of this Society, will be entitled to a set of the tracts already issued.

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This Memorial is issued as one of the regular tracts of the Society, in the belief that it will directly serve the cause of Political Education by showing how much good one man, working against many disadvantages, may do even in a short life, and by inspiring others to do their part in the kind of work to which he gave his life.

The Work of a Social Teacher.

BEING A MEMORIAL OF

RICHARD L. DUGDALE.

THE men are very few indeed, whose best years and whose most fruitful labor are given, not to themselves and to those dear to them, but for the sake of mankind. And of these, the men are still fewer whose years of active usefulness are consecrated to the service of human beings repulsive to the sight and hateful to think of—human beings who do not know or understand their benefactors, and who, if they did know them, would return no conscious gratitude. Inspiration cannot be found for these men even in the well-earned and grateful applause of their own time. That applause goes most often and most freely to what is obvious and splendid in performance, to what appeals directly and intelligibly to the fellow-feeling of men who are well housed, well fed, and well clothed. The founders of those schools and hospitals whose fine façades and spacious and comfortable rooms are always before our eyes, the discoverer of remedies

which any one of us, however fortunate his condition, may by and by need—these benefactors we easily and warmly appreciate. They are agreeable figures in crowded drawing-rooms; the crown of the civic hero is ready for them in every meeting of reputable and happy citizens. But toward the men whose walks of mercy are in haunts we never willingly see or imagine—whose tenderness touches and whose intelligence raises wretches of moral degradation and physical loathsomeness which we banish from our thoughts almost as completely as we do from our eyes and ears—toward those men there goes from us scant and frigid recognition, until long after a just recognition is too late to be to them either help or reward, or to bring them the sweet and triumphant sense of appreciation wistfully sought by even the saviors of mankind. They become themselves part of a disagreeable and repulsive subject. Upon the fingers of one hand may be counted, for any one generation, the heroes who suffer through life this almost hardest of sacrifices for their fellow-men. Among these heroes was RICHARD L. DUGDALE, who died at New York on the 23d of July, 1883.

Mr. Dugdale's father and mother were English, having a natural pride in an ancestry of much social distinction—a pride which did not, however, curb

the utmost democracy of sentiment and practical life. He was born at Paris in 1841, his father being there engaged in business. On suffering serious pecuniary reverses, his father returned to England in 1848. The son developed in his London home artistic tastes which led to his being placed in the government drawing-school at Somerset House. Here he was engaged when in 1851 his family came to America. In New York he attended a public school for two or three years; and then, at the age of fourteen, was employed by a sculptor with whom he did very creditable artistic work. The shadow of disease was however already over him. A serious exposure while at the public school had irreparably impaired his very delicate constitution; and when about seventeen years old it was thought necessary for his health that his family should remove to a farm purchased by his father in Indiana. Young Dugdale's strength did not however sufficiently increase to fit him for the work of a farmer; and in 1860 he returned with his family to New York. During his absence he had with characteristic industry learned phonography, an art he afterward practised for a short time as a means of livelihood.

Entering business, as he was compelled to do, upon his return to New York, Mr. Dugdale attended the admirable night classes of the Cooper Union.

Here, and especially in the debating clubs, he easily distinguished himself. He had already, doubtless through natural aptitude and from his reading, become greatly interested in social subjects. He then keenly desired to devote himself to the methodical study of social science. He afterward said of this time: "At twenty-three I clearly saw that, even did I possess the most perfect technical training to enable me to analyse the complex questions involved, there was no institution or patron to defray the expenses of a continuous, calm, independent, and unconventional critical study of social phenomena. I, therefore, had to confront this practical question—to earn the costs of an education which no college provided, and amass sufficient fortune to purchase the privilege of independent subsequent inquiry. I met the dilemma by entering the career of merchant and manufacturer, because this combined the opportunity for study of a distinct class of social phenomena and the promise of earning the means for future freedom of investigation. After ten years of this double work, I broke down in health, yet I continued business for two years more until my physician peremptorily ordered rest, physical and mental; and for four years I could neither earn nor learn."

How active and multifarious was Mr. Dugdale's interest in social subjects during the years he thus

mentions, one may easily imagine from an imperfect list of the bodies of which he was a zealous and important member. He was Secretary of the Section on Sociology of the New York Association for the Advancement of Science and the Arts; he was Secretary of the New York Social Science Society, and of the New York Sociology Club; he was Treasurer of the New York Liberal Club; he was Vice-President of the Society for the Prevention of Street Accidents; he was later, for a time, Secretary of the Civil-Service Reform Association; he was an active member of the American Social Science Association and of the American Public Health Association. He was also a member of the American Free-Trade League, of the Chamber of Commerce, and of the American Institute.

Nor did this varied work indicate either restlessness or superficiality of intellectual interest. These clubs and associations were nearly all directly related to the amelioration of the condition of men. Those to which his time was chiefly given had to do with men who were suffering because of their poverty, or vice, or the oppression of others, or the singularity of their opinions. During the years of his business career his spare energy, never daunted by the savage threats of the disease which hung over the years of his manhood, was spent in this field of

beneficence. And until his death his zeal and interest remained undiminished in all the reforms which these bodies were intended to promote. Mr. Dugdale was, however, to find his chief fame in the work of bettering the condition of prisoners. These fellow-beings commended themselves to him because they were suffering, and because they were not only friendless, but to most men were odious. In the criminal or vicious life, in the inherited disease, or in the degradation of their former environment, his hopeful and buoyant sympathy found glimmering the faint light of a possible moral restoration. Or, where this light had quite flickered out, he then sought the lessons grimly taught by the hopeless careers of lost men and women. These lessons and the causes which made such careers possible he learned to a merciful purpose.

He became a member of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York in 1868. In the work of this society, inspired as it was by the loftiest humanitarian impulses, but treading always the firm ground of practical beneficence, there was most admirable opportunity for the exercise of his abilities. Until his death he gave it unstinted time and labor. The work of this famous association was twofold: first, the improvement of prison discipline, the intelligent separation, grouping and

treatment of convicts, so that they should acquire new and wholesome habits of work, attention, and thought, and that they should not, at least, grow in depravity while within the prison walls; and secondly, the practical aid of convicts, after their release, to earn an honest livelihood. Mr. Dugdale expended a vast amount of time, and drew heavily upon his private resources in visits to the different prisons and jails of the State. Not shrinking from work singularly repulsive to one of so gentle a temper, he made the personal acquaintance of many convicted or reputed criminals in and out of prisons. He learned their biographies. He heard their case against society, as well as the more obvious though perhaps no stronger case of society against them. The result of this investigation is given in the famous *brochure* "The Jukes," which he published in 1877. This study of hereditary crime and pauperism, profoundly useful and interesting as it was in spite of the unavoidable horror of its details, at once attracted wide-spread attention. In this country and Europe it has been read and quoted to the present time. The plain sobriety of its statements, often compressing into schedules the result of most laborious and accurate research, rather heightens the effect of its appalling picture of a life which goes on at the heart of our civilization, and from the taint

of which no one wholly escapes. From the facts of "The Jukes," Mr. Dugdale drew very important and far-reaching generalizations. He concluded that there is hope in the physical and mental vigor of criminals; that there is hopelessness in the absence of that vigor in paupers; that pauperism is more, therefore, to be dreaded than crime; that the misdirected energy of the latter may, by proper discipline, be diverted to useful work; but that the sooner death comes the better, to the "undervitalization and consequent untrainableness" of pauperism; that it is a crime to so maintain paupers that they may breed another and perhaps more numerous generation of their own kind; that licentiousness is the concomitant and a chief cause both of pauperism and crime; and that the open abandonment of virtue in women is the dreadful analogue of pauperism and crime in men. There is, in "The Jukes," no æsthetic and fatuous ignoring of the gross and repulsive causes of so much of pauperism and disease,—causes which, however pleasantly veiled by euphemisms, are still an ever-present and an ever-dreadful obstacle to making humanity better and happier. Nor did Mr. Dugdale propose by any false tenderness to evade the real problem. He would not prevent nature, with inexorable beneficence, visiting her penalties upon the vicious and

indolent. But for the young and for those not yet hopelessly degraded, he would provide, first, the necessary conditions of physical health, as a chief foundation of morality, and then add the guidance and stimulation of education, and the training and protection of hard work. In "Further Studies of Criminals," he briefly draws the lessons learned from his laborious investigations.

In discussing the question of intermittent industry, he says: "It was shown that one of the causes of idle habits was primarily physical and mental disease. * * * * The first condition, therefore of social and moral regeneration is public health. The draining of lands, the sewerage of cities, the ventilation of houses, the amelioration of tenements, the cleansing of streets, the widening of thoroughfares, the demolition of rear buildings, the removal of cesspools, the purity of water-supplies, the cubic space allotted to each person in dwellings, are only a few of the conditions which, if observed, will so improve the health of the general community that they will be more capable, and for that reason willing, to do their work without exhaustion than they now are, and with this additional increment of vitality will need less and therefore consume less of inebriating stimulants than they now do. Public health will re-act against intemperance in all its

forms, and this again will re-act in maintaining and perfecting public health. In a community in which its infants are blessed with the advantages of perfect hygienic training, the body will assume that steady, uninterrupted growth which is the first requisite for the organization of a sound mind and its concomitant—a well-balanced life. * * * * Given a taste for steady work and you have the best possible safeguard against the unbridled indulgence of the passions, and, with this, an effectual check to the formation of criminal practices which are, in a majority of instances, the direct result of indulgence in exhausting vices, or in the feverish pursuit of indulgences which a hard-working man does not think of. But the industrial training, here advocated, must not be the arbitrary imposition of a formal task. Work is not an education in its proper sense unless it enlists the putting forth of the powers of body and mind, simultaneously and cheerfully, to accomplish a pre-determined result."

"The Jukes" and "Further Studies of Criminals," speedily attained a high reputation as unique and valuable works. Mr. Dugdale followed them by a number of essays on sociological subjects published in the *Westminister Review*, the *North American Review*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and other periodicals. This was in addition to the essentially literary

work he did for the various bodies of which he was a member, the reports and public addresses composed by him for them, and the papers read before them at their meetings. His literary composition was done in an attractive, nervous, and vigorous style, but with a considerate deference to the opinions and studies of other men, and with a modest and continuous acknowledgment of the large extent and complex nature of the problems upon which he was engaged, always forbidding, as they did, narrow and dogmatic assertions.

In 1880 Mr. Dugdale became the first Secretary of the Society for Political Education. This again was labor in the field of social improvement. Valuable as had been the work done by political parties in discussing political questions, the work was still always limited by the fancied necessities, frequent pretences, and dexterous timidity of partisan conflicts. Every effort at prison reform, at the compulsory sanitary protection of the very poor and the very young, had to be successful, if at all, through legislative or executive bodies, made up almost entirely of men in political life. It was a most serious obstacle to the advance of the reforms on which Mr. Dugdale's heart was set, that these men were often chosen as the result of skilful intrigue or as a reward for the lowest order of par-

tisan activity. Men so chosen could not be equal to the statesmanlike work appropriate to the offices they held. And it was plainly seen that the popular choice of public officers would continue to be so made as long as public opinion was not directed to administrative efficiency and honor, but was swayed by vague sentiments cleverly heated by rival partisans for election emergencies, or by corrupt and sinister influences designed to prevent either party from taking a distinct position upon any matter of real public moment,—and so long as popular interest in political questions was not sufficiently wide-spread or well-enough disciplined to compel parties to take sides upon them. The education of the people in true politics, it seemed, therefore, to Mr. Dugdale and his associates, would not only greatly aid popular judgment on political questions, but would be a necessary preliminary to the election of public representatives and officers upon real issues. If elections were so held, successful candidates would come generally to be men competent to consider and expert in dealing with questions of state and administration. And if legislators and executives were so competent and expert, and were not merely men accomplished in intrigue or active in party contests, we should have from them conscientious and intelligent consideration of measures

intended to aid vital social reforms. Legislative committees, governors, mayors, commissioners of charities and corrections, superintendents of prisons, reformatories, almshouses, hospitals, would then patiently listen and intelligently act upon discussions of the condition of the extremely poor and the vicious, and especially of children and young men and women not yet hopelessly hardened. The work of the Society for Political Education was thus closely related to the beneficent labors to which Mr. Dugdale had given his life.

The Society received from Mr. Dugdale the most zealous and intelligent service from its beginning until he was overmastered by disease. Under his administration the Society rapidly grew in numbers and reputation until, at his death, it is no exaggeration to say that it had become a valuable factor in the creation and direction of American public sentiment.

In March, 1883, the disorder of the heart, which had for years been his ominous companion, overcame him. In April, however, he returned indomitably to the work of the Society and to his interest in his fellow-men. This was but a respite of two or three weeks. His cruel enemy was at last victorious. After several weeks of intense agony, borne with imperturbable sweetness of temper, he died on the 23d of July, 1883, at his residence in

Morton Street, New York, made by him the familiar office of this Society.

Though of slight frame, and in spite of his physical suffering, Mr. Dugdale was a man of remarkable activity and persistence. And this activity and persistence were due to a courageous and lofty resolution which neither sickness nor suffering could abate. Nor did they prevent his temper from being equable. His manners were always considerate and oftentimes diffident. His personal bearing showed the simple and sincere earnestness and the sympathetic concern for others, which were plain characteristics of the man.

Mr. Dugdale's associates in the Society feel that his place cannot be filled. His work, however, survives him, and must be done. He leaves to us a hopeful belief that Americans have only begun the era of wide political intelligence, of a greater and more constant care for the methods of government and for the capacity and honor of public servants, of the more scrupulous and jealous regard for the rights of men who belong to no easily-heard class, a regard which the end of administrative abuses is sure to create, and of a sounder and steadier mercy toward those of whom it is doubtful whether their wickedness is due to their misery or their misery is due to their wickedness.

The Society for Political Education.

PUBLICATIONS:

The courses of reading recommended to its members have been as follows:—

LIBRARY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION.

First Series.

NORDHOFF (Charles). Politics for Young Americans. 200 pp. 75 cents.
JOHNSTON (Alex.). History of American Politics. 296 pp. $1.00.
PERRY (A. L.). Introduction to Political Economy. 348 pp. $1.50.
MCADAM (Graham). An Alphabet in Finance. 232 pp. $1.00.
The 4 vols. in box, $3.25.

Second Series.

BLANQUI (J. A.). History of Political Economy in Europe. Translated by E. J. Leonard. 628 pp. $3.00
JEVONS (J. S.). Money and the Mechanism of Exchange. 402 pp. $1.75.
MILL (J. S.). On Liberty. 204 pp. $1.50.
The 3 vols. in box, $5.00.

Third Series.

BRASSEY (Thomas). Work and Wages. 290 pp. $1.00.
WELLS (David A.). Our Merchant Marine. $1.00.
STERNE (Simon). Constitutional History of the United States. 350 pp. $1.25.
SPENCER (Herbert). On Education. 75 cents.
The 4 vols. in box, $3.00.

Sets of the above series or separate volumes may still be had at the prices named. They are uniformly bound expressly for the Society.

The Society issues for its members four tracts in each year upon such subjects as may be selected by the General Committee. The following tracts have been already issued, and may be had by applying to the Secretary. Any four will be sent on receipt of 50 cents.

ECONOMIC TRACTS.

First Series. 1880–81.

1 ATKINSON (E.) What is a Bank? 10 cents.
2 POLITICAL ECONOMY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. A priced and classified bibliography, by Sumner, Wells, Foster, Dugdale, and Putnam. 25 cents.
3 PRESENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, with suggestions of subjects for debate and for essays. 10 cents.
4 THE USURY QUESTION, by Calvin, Bentham, Dana, and Wells, with bibliography. 25 cents.

Second Series. 1882.

5 COURTOIS (Alphonse). Political Economy in One Lesson. Translated by W. C. Ford. 10 cents.
6 WHITE (Horace). Money and Its Substitutes. 25 cents.
7 WHITE (A. D.). Paper-money Inflation in France: a History and its Application. 25 cents.
8 WHITRIDGE (Frederick W.). The Caucus System. 10 cents.

Third Series. 1883.

9 CANFIELD (James H.). Taxation. 15 cents.
10 BOWKER (R. R.). Of Work and Wealth; a Summary of Economics. 25 cents.
11 GREEN (George Walton). Repudiation. 20 cents.
12 SHEPARD (E. M.). The Work of a Social Teacher: Memorial of Richard L. Dugdale. 10 cents.

Fourth Series. 1884.

13 FORD (W. C.). The Standard Silver Dollar and the Coinage Law of 1878. 20 cents.

If any member cannot procure these publications from the local booksellers, he should address Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 27 and 29 West 23d Street, New York; Jansen, McClurg & Co., 119 State Street, Chicago; or W. B. Clarke & Carruth, 340 Washington Street, Boston, Mass., who are the publishing agents of the Society; or any of the Secretaries.

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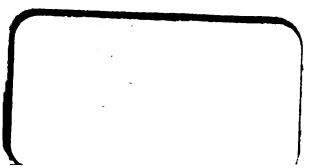
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